



# Osmunda cinnamomea

## cinnamon fern

Family Osmundaceae

Origin Native

WIS Code FACW CoC 6

### DESCRIPTION

A large tall clump-forming fern with sterile fronds (leaves) to 1.5 m long, and cinnamon-red compact, upward pointing, fertile fronds. Puffs of hairs where the pinnae (leaflets) attach to the rachis (main axis of a compound leaf) are characteristic.

### SPORES

Fertile fronds, 0.5 m long like a giant cinnamon stick, began green in early spring before turning cinnamon color and withering soon after.

### HABITAT

Acidic soils of seepage swamps, fens, bogs and floodplain forests.

### SIMILAR SPECIES

*Osmunda claytoniana*, interrupted fern, is also a large clumping fern, but lacks the puffed rachis hairs, and has its fertile brown “mini-fronds” interrupting larger green fronds midway up the rachis.



© Glen Mittelhauser



© Marilee Lovit



© Rob Curtis



© BKinder832

*Osmunda claytoniana*